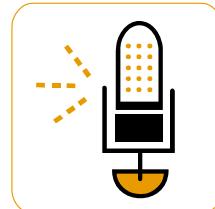


# The Mint Master

November 2009  
Volume 55, Issue 11

Newsletter of the Utah Numismatic Society

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## This Month's Program:

### Bourse Night

### "Club Elections"

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## Presidents Message

### Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall weather we're having lately. I've noticed that the colors have been very rich this year. Warm days & cool nights can't last forever, so enjoy!

I would like to thank Nathan Badger for his presentation last club meeting, who gave a very enlightening presentation on the basic eBay buying do's & don'ts. I had several very positive feedback remarks regarding our meeting that night. Thanks again, Nathan.  
For November, we're

having one of our UNS club bourse nights, so bring a coin or two to sell or trade, if you'd like. Our bourse nights are usually very popular so you won't want to miss this meeting.

In addition, we'll be having elections for club leadership positions for the coming year. This will be an important aspect of the meeting for November. I hope you will think about ways to contribute to the continued growth & success of our wonderful UNS coin club. The more participation we have from club members, the better!

We'll also be talking about the upcoming Christmas dinner and activities for the December meeting, so you won't want to miss it. Speaking of our upcoming Christmas dinner next month.....remember, December is the month for lots of prizes & giveaways. If you have any coins, medals or tokens that you would like to donate which could be used as prizes, we would be very grateful!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Tom Jensen

## November Meeting Details.

**Meetings - Second Tuesday of each month ( Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> )**

**Time - 7:00 P.M.**

**Location - Columbus Community Center; 2531 South 400 East, SLC**

**Greetings - Tom Jensen**

**Mini Exhibit - Bruce Griggs**

**News & Views - Larry Kimura**

**Coin Quiz - Larry Kimura**

**Refreshments- Bruce Griggs**

### Sandwich coins.

There was a recent announcement in the Gray Sheet regarding an arrest made in California of someone trying to sell a 'Sandwich Coin.' This is not new to numismatics but may become, unfortunately, a more common method of selling counterfeit coins. For those of you not aware of this process a sandwich coin is made by joining two common coins together, a shaved obverse and a shaved reverse. This incident created a rare high grade uncirculated 1884-S Morgan dollar by using a common 1884-P Obverse and a common 1887-S reverse. The scary part was that the coin was in a tampered PCGS holder which hid the edge so it could not be inspected. The value in MS-67 was over \$70,000! Counterfeitors are moving toward lower value coins so this type of counterfeit may soon be found with coins valued under \$1000. We must be careful in today's economy with virtually every coin we purchase.



## Interesting Coin of the Month



**1815 & 1825 Counter-stamped Quarters with "E" & "L"**

These coins have been the subject of debate for decades although the novice collector may have never heard of them. Most are dated 1815 but similar examples are also known for the year 1825. The curious "E" or "L" counter-stamp above the turban appears on many high grade examples and for some mysterious reason is almost unknown on well circulated examples. One of the most prevalent stories is that they were given to students who excelled in Latin or English as awards. This makes for an interesting story however is probably far from the truth. One other story, is that it was a mark given at the mint to identify modifications used to improve the strike so that comparisons could be made later. Other stories exist and we will probably never know the true reason for why so many high grade quarters from 1815 and 1825 exist today with the counter-stamps applied. To be sure, other rumors and stories also persist.

## UNS Program for November's Meeting

Two items are on the agenda for November. First, this month is the "Bourse Program." All members are encouraged to bring items for retail sale to all members in attendance. Just like a real show the more sellers the more excitement and

better selection of material available. Remember your duplicates or unwanted items may become someone else's treasures.

Second, this is the meeting where you can nominate fellow club members to a position in our club. This

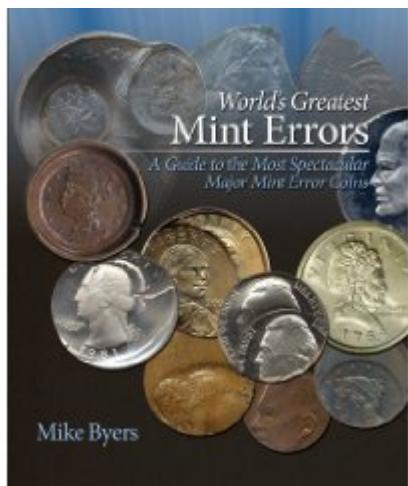
can give someone who desires an excellent opportunity to serve. If elected, you will find it very rewarding to serve in the UNS.

Good luck with your bourse and your active part in UNS politics.

## Buy of the Month / Prizes of the Month

### This month's buy is:

- There is no buy of the month for November due to the 'Bourse Program'



**Author – Mike Byers**

**List Price - \$37.95**

**This book can be found at discounted prices.**

### Prizes for November –

#### **Grand Prize - 1/20 oz Panda gold coin**

2007 Mint Set  
 1964 Mint Set  
 1986 Liberty Half Dollar  
 2005 Lewis & Clark Nickel Set  
 2001 German 10 Mark  
 2005 Marine Proof Dollar  
 1963 Unc. Set  
 2000 German 10 mark  
 Y2K Dollar Ser # 2000  
 1989 Congressional Proof Half Dollar  
**1923 Peace Dollar Promptness Prize**  
**1989 Congressional Half Dollar Jr. Prize**  
 Liberty Head Medal  
 Seated Liberty Medal  
 1986 Liberty Half Dollar  
**Peace Dollar Membership Prize**  
 Central High deseg \$ Unc.  
 Jamaica \$10 Nelson Silver  
 China counterfeit coin  
 1913 Liberty Nickel medal

## Book Review

This is your standard coffee-table coin book which also doubles as a great reference for some of the most spectacular error coins ever produced. Mike Byers is one of the pre-eminent authorities on this subject and has handled probably most of the visually fantastic errors during his career.

This book covers, in my opinion, virtually all of the greatest errors of all time. Each coin is pictured in full color both obverse and reverse as well as rarity and values. Rarity is described as quantity known, not by R1 thru R8 and values are listed for the coins pictured as a simple dollar amount. The coins

are grouped by type of error and not by denomination which I believe is definitely the proper way to present these errors. There are 30 chapters outlining 30 types of errors. I can't think of anything that was omitted. The book consists of 232 full color pages. Most pages depict only two separate errors and there are many pages devoted to just a single error. Brief descriptions are given to each error as well as a general information page at the beginning of each chapter. Even if you don't collect errors this is a wonderful book and will make a great addition to any numismatic library.

## Coin Quiz & Trivia



1. Which of the following gold denominations was not authorized by the Coinage Act of April 2, 1792?
 

a. Gold Dollars	c. Half Eagles
b. Quarter Eagles	d. Eagles
2. Indian Head quarter eagles and half eagles had their design recessed into the surface, with the exception of:
 

a. The Date	c. The Mintmark
b. The Denomination	d. The Motto
3. The Little Princess is the 1841-dated issue of which denomination?
 

a. Quarter Dollar	c. Quarter Eagle
b. Silver Dollar	d. Double Eagle
4. A certain variety of Franklin half dollar, known as the Bugs Bunny half dollar, was the result of clash marks from the small eagle on the reverse. Which year did this happen?
 

a. 1949	c. 1955
b. 1963	d. 1958
5. Which one of the following did not issue Hawaiian Plantation tokens?
 

a. Wailuku	c. Haiku
b. Grove Ranch	d. Maliki

*Answers to last month's questions. 1)Browning 2)1894-S 3)1873 4) 1839-O 50C 5) Bingles*

## Young Numismatist's News / Eliza Finnegan

Junior members of the UNS are an important part of the club.

Eliza has been a member of the UNS her whole life. She came to her first meeting when she was about a week old and has been coming faithfully ever since. She might not do a whole lot of coin collecting, but she has collected a great deal of knowledge and enjoyment by being a member of the UNS and helping out where she can. Some of Eliza's favorite things about being a junior member are:

1. Winning Prizes! It might be that she has a little 'Luck of the Irish' or that she is the only junior left at the end of the meeting, but winning is winning, and that is great. It's also good for her Dad because she can be generous and give the

prize to him or she can use it as a bargaining tool when she needs one.

2. The UNS annual Christmas party is another great part of being a junior member. Eliza likes buffets. That would be enough for most people, but she also loves the prizes at the party. At Christmas for her it is more about handing them out to all the winners. Some of her favorite memories of the holiday season is going to the Coin Club Christmas Dinner and giving away prizes. When she was little she thought the prizes were hers to give away. There is nothing like getting dressed up in a jingle bell skirt and having people tell you how nice you look. And having everyone excited when you bring them something makes you the center of attention. That will make any girl feel important.

3. Eliza enjoys helping with the refreshments - not just for the

extra ticket she gets at the Christmas party. Helping and feeling apart of the club is something that anyone in the club can do. Sitting at the hospitality table and selling tickets is on her list of favorite ways to help. There are many ways a junior can help out at the monthly meetings and Eliza enjoys doing whatever she can to help.

4. Going to the coin shows is always a highlight. Occasionally working as a page, cleaning glass and running errands has been fun and sometimes profitable. All of the shows have been great, but she likes the Ogden Coin Club show the best (sorry guys) because she gets to do a little flying over at the Solomon Center. Eliza even tested out the security at the 2001 ANA show when it was in Salt Lake and found

them to be attentive and thorough. According to her, she lost us.

5. Her favorite thing about the club is all the great people she knows and can call friends. After all, not a lot of kids get to be friends with cops. Eliza has made many great friends over the years and loves seeing them every month. She has had a wonderful time growing up as a member of the UNS and looks forward to serving the club for many years to come.

The UNS has a place for everyone to serve that wants to help, no matter how old you are. All you need to do is ask! So any juniors out there who want to have some fun, come and help out at the UNS monthly meeting - you are truly an important part of the club.

## Counterfeit Corner



### Pick Up Point

#### **Omega Symbol**

Frequency Encountered  
Common

Identification Difficulty  
Easy

Value  
Moderate



**OMEGA SYMBOL**

The “Omega” counterfeit of the 1907 St. Gaudins high relief \$20 is one of the most famous of all counterfeits. The copy is made of gold, full weight, and almost perfect in appearance and quality. The counterfeiter actually signed his work, a small Omega symbol can be seen hidden in the field of the eagles claw. Estimates range that as many as 20,000 may have been made and they actually trade with collectors in excess of the gold melt value.

## Feature Article – What Makes a Coin Rare & Valuable?

I get asked all the time, “What makes a coin rare? Or better yet, “What makes a coin valuable?” Many novices or beginning collectors’ state, “My coin is well over a hundred years old, (typically an 1880 Morgan Dollar) it has to be quite valuable.” My answer to them is that there are generally three things which in no particular order determine rarity and value of a coin, they are, age, or how old the coin is, condition, today the condition of any coin or collectable is paramount but again not the only thing to be considered, and finally, demand or desirability of the particular coin. (If their 100 year old Morgan was a 1893-S virtually everyone would like to own it) However even with an 1893-S Morgan all three factors come into play at some point or other. One example I frequently use is to compare an 1876 twenty cent coin to a 1909-S VDB Lincoln Cent. The 1909-S VDB is quite a bit more valuable than the twenty cent coin. Why is this, the 20 cent coin is over 30 years older than the Lincoln, its mintage is but a fraction of the Lincoln, 484,000 compared to 14,640, it definitely is rarer, (go to a few coin shops and see how many 1876 20c coins you see vs. 1909-S VDB Lincolns) and a nice SVDB will definitely cost you more than the 20 cent piece, at least in commonly seen circulated grades. So, value has nothing to do with age, condition, or rarity, right? Here the key word is demand. Lincoln cents are probably the most collected set in America, some will say Morgan Dollars, but everyone who collects Lincoln’s needs a 1909-S VDB to complete their set. 20 cent coins were minted from 1875 to 1878 with the last two years being proof only and the 1876-CC coin being a classic and extreme rarity valued well above \$100,000.00! I have had several of these rarities in my hands but it is easy to say that none will become part of my collection any time soon and I am not trying to complete a set of 20 cent coins, as is the case with almost every numismatist. So then nobody collects sets of 20 cent coins and the demand is usually for a single coin to exist as part of a type set. The demand simply isn’t there for this scarce coin. Can you imagine if for instance the 1916-D Lincoln had a mintage of 14,640! Most of us probably couldn’t afford one but I guarantee you that it would be a very popular and very high in demand coin. These are just my thoughts on rarity and value. Remember several ingredients to into determining this for every coin in your collection.

Now, somebody volunteer for the ‘Feature Article’ in December, we all want to hear from you.  
Doug Nyholm





### Identify This Coin

Can you identify the coin pictured at left? This one is a little more difficult than last month's coin. You should however be able to identify both the denomination and year dated from this picture.

Hint: This is a very rare and expensive coin.

Good Luck!

[Last month's coin was a 1851-O Three cent silver 'Trime.' ]

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If you are looking to sell your collection please give us a call! We also trade and sell coins. We love to help our customers with coins they need, so if you have a want list we would be happy to help you out. We've been in the coin business for 45 years.

### Plan to attend the UNS Christmas Dinner!

Date – Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>

Time – Arrive at 6:30 PM – Dinner served at 7:00 PM

Cost – Adults \$17; Children (8 and under) \$8.50

Location - Columbus Community Center; 2531 South 400 East, SLC Dinner will be served in the larger room down the hall.

Menu – 'Catering by Bryce' "Artichoke Chicken & Roast Pork Loin with Raspberry Chipotle."

All meals must be pre-ordered by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. You can pay Ralph Muller at our November meeting or at the door Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are not at our November meeting and plan to attend please notify Ralph via phone or email as noted below:

**801-581-0991**

**[mullerralph@gmail.com](mailto:mullerralph@gmail.com)**



**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

If you haven't discovered it yet there is a great reference web site which has over a dozen e-books on numismatics all completely free.

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*Your input,  
suggestions and  
written articles are  
always appreciated  
and wanted!*

## Membership Form

Application for membership in the Utah Numismatic Society / UNS

Name(s) of applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive the newsletter? [ ] Email / Preferred [ ] Postal Mail

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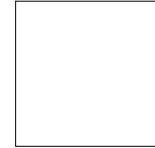
When & Where we meet -  
Columbus Community Center                      Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM  
2531 South 400 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Annual Dues:

[ ] Family \$25    [ ] Adult (18 and older) \$15    [ ] Junior \$5

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**UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 65054  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84165



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Comments, Suggestions,  
and articles should be  
submitted to:

[robiewan@netzero.net](mailto:robiewan@netzero.net)